



# NEWS

**For Immediate Release  
July 29, 2003**

**Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Documents  
Available for UMTRA Ground Water Project New Rifle Site, Rifle, Colorado**

(Grand Junction, CO)—The U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO) announces the availability of the final *Environmental Assessment of Ground Water Compliance at the New Rifle, Colorado, UMTRA Project Site* and the *Finding of No Significant Impact* documents for the site. The *Environmental Assessment* provides information concerning the potential effects of the selected ground-water compliance strategy for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project New Rifle site. The *Finding of No Significant Impact* states that no significant adverse environmental effects will result from the planned strategy and that an *Environmental Impact Statement* document is not needed.

The New Rifle site is a former uranium and vanadium ore-processing facility located in western Colorado about 2 miles southwest of the city of Rifle in Garfield County. The site was owned and operated by the Union Carbide Corporation from 1958 until the State of Colorado acquired it in 1988.

Contaminants of concern in ground water at the New Rifle site include ammonia, arsenic, fluoride, manganese, molybdenum, nitrate, selenium, uranium, and vanadium. The *Environmental Assessment* for the New Rifle site states that DOE plans a ground-water remediation strategy of natural flushing coupled with institutional controls and continued monitoring to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ground-water standards. Institutional controls protect public health and the environment by limiting access to a contaminated medium.

At the New Rifle site, institutional controls consist of deed restrictions and a ground water use zoning overlay (a set of zoning regulations for a defined area) resolution by Garfield County and an

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associated ordinance by the City of Rifle. These institutional controls prevent unauthorized access to the contaminated ground water at the site. In addition, DOE funded the extension of the current municipal waterline near the site to provide potable water in the area where restrictions are required. The site will be transferred from the State of Colorado to the City of Rifle at a future date, at which time deed restrictions will become effective. DOE will also continue monitoring ground water and surface water at the site.

Reference copies of the *Environmental Assessment* and the *Finding of No Significant Impact* will be placed in the Rifle Branch Library, Glenwood Springs Branch Library, Mesa County Public Library, and DOE-GJO Public Reading Room in Grand Junction by August 5, 2003.

The documents will also be available on the DOE-GJO website at

<http://www.gjo.doe.gov/ugw/sites/co/rifle/rifle.htm>. Copies of the documents can be requested by contacting DOE-GJO toll-free at 1-800-399-5618.

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